

I'm going to be somebody.

Twenty-first Century Scholars gave *me* an opportunity. ▶

[1990-2001 A PROGRESS REPORT]

A WORTHWHILE Endeavor



▶ A “bold and promising idea” when first proposed by then Gov. Evan Bayh. Then a “national model” that spurred the federal GEAR UP program to improve college access under Gov. Frank O’Bannon. Today a “best practice” recognized and showcased for emulation by other states through the National Governors Association. The Twenty-first Century Scholars program has come a long way in 11 years.

As college education costs, alcohol and drug use, and crime increased at the end of the 1980s, Gov. Bayh recognized that lower-income children faced an ever-increasing risk of a future without opportunity. The Twenty-first Century Scholars program was established to address these issues with Indiana youth.

We’ve learned a lot since the first eighth graders took the Scholars Pledge to stay in school and be alcohol, drug and crime free, in return for tuition-based scholarships to Indiana public and private colleges and universities. Our program’s partnerships with students, their parents, and educators in middle schools, high schools and colleges have contributed to the enrollment of nearly 70,000 Scholars. Three classes of Scholars have now completed K-12 education and four years of college, and we are proud of those first 1,500 college graduates. In its first 11 years, enrollment has increased from a handful of students to more than 10,000 per year, and we look forward to substantial increases in the number of Scholars who graduate from college in the future.

Getting there hasn’t been easy, and we still must strive to enroll every eligible student before we declare complete success. We have found that the promise of tuition scholarships alone does not guarantee that every student will earn grades necessary to be accepted into college. Many students and parents – particularly those for whom college is a goal beyond their experience and hopes – do not recognize the program’s benefits or believe the opportunity that is available to them. And too many children are ill-prepared for success once they reach college because they do not take the more

challenging high school curricula that would enhance their ability to make the grade.

We know now that college affordability and academic preparation are both necessary for college access and success for everyone – with lower-income families facing an even greater challenge. The Twenty-first Century Scholars Pledge is the first step toward success for about 14,000 Hoosier children at risk each year. And we strive to provide that opportunity for each and every one.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David Perlini'.

David Perlini
Executive Director
State Student Assistance
Commission of Indiana

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Our HISTORY of Helping



Under the Administration of Indiana Gov. Evan Bayh, the Twenty-first Century Scholars program was created in 1990.

▶ For many Hoosiers, the financial burden of a higher education is often more than they can handle alone. But, with the help of college planning and financial assistance, many Indiana families have learned that the dream of attending college is a reality.

In 1990, the Indiana General Assembly created the Twenty-first Century Scholars program to help reduce the financial burden of higher education on low- to moderate-income Indiana students and their families. Much more than just a scholarship, the program guides students – from seventh grade through college graduation – and their families through the necessary steps as they pursue higher education.

Income-eligible students who enroll in the Scholars program and fulfill a Pledge of good citizenship are guaranteed the cost of eight semesters of college tuition at any participating Indiana public college or university. If the student attends an eligible Indiana private institution, the state will award an amount comparable to that of a public institution. If the student attends an eligible proprietary school, the state will award a tuition scholarship similar to that of Ivy Tech State College (a Community College of Indiana partner).

The first class of 5,722 Scholars enrolled in the 1990-91 school year. Since then, nearly 70,000 students have enrolled in the program and almost 19,000 have completed high school, affirmed that they have remained drug and crime free, and are eligible to receive tuition assistance to attend Indiana postsecondary public institutions, independent colleges and universities, and approved proprietary schools.

Timeline

1990 ▶

Under the administration of Gov. Evan Bayh, the Indiana General Assembly establishes the Twenty-first Century Scholars program.

1992 ▶

The State provides additional funding during 1992-94, allowing the Scholars program to expand from seven to nine sites. The collaborative efforts of the Commission for Higher Education, the State Budget Agency and the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana (SSACI) enable the Indiana Career and Postsecondary Advancement Center (ICPAC) to hire staff to manage the Scholars program database.

▶

The Parents Project is implemented with seed funds from Lilly Endowment, Inc. in seven Regional Support Sites statewide.

▶

The Scholars program partners with College Goal Sunday to provide free financial aid assistance to Indiana families.

1994 ▶

The Scholars program expands to 12 sites through support from the National Early Intervention Scholarship and Partnership (NEISP) initiative. It is one of only six recipients of the U.S. Department of Education NEISP grant.

▶

The Scholars program receives an AmeriCorps grant, which provides services from 22 AmeriCorps members.

1995 ▶

The first class of Scholars enters college.

1998 ▶

In July, the Scholars Support Program expands to 16 sites, offering Support Program Initiatives to all 92 Indiana counties.

▶

The Scholars program pilots an Educational Summit with the Parents Project and the Indiana Center for Family, School and Community Partnerships.

1999 ▶

Involvement from AmeriCorps grows to include 110 members, providing more than 300,000 hours of community service to Scholars and community programs across Indiana.

▶

The Scholars program receives a GEAR UP grant from the U.S. Department of Education to produce a PBS broadcast – “GEAR UP – a Guide to Student Financial Aid.”

2000 ▶

For the first time, the Scholars program offers free assistance to families enrolling or interested in the Scholars program at nearly 60 Scholars Sunday event locations statewide.

Reaching ELIGIBLE Students



The Twenty-first Century Scholars program assists families from every corner of the state with varying ethnic and cultural backgrounds. But one commonality among all of the students and families participating in the Scholars program is a shared pursuit for higher education and greater opportunities.

Starting in fall 2001, the Scholars program began accepting applications from eligible seventh graders in addition to eligible eighth graders to widen the window of opportunity for reaching qualified students.

Twenty-first Century Scholars program goals:

- ▶ Help more students continue their education.
- ▶ Reduce the high school dropout rate.
- ▶ Prepare students for the workforce.
- ▶ Reduce the use of drugs and alcohol among middle and high school students.
- ▶ Improve Indiana's economic vitality.
- ▶ Improve the quality of life for all Hoosiers.

To qualify to be a Scholar in the 2001-02 year, the student must:

- ▶ Be an Indiana resident as an applicant and Scholarship recipient (determined by residency of parent/legal guardian) and a child of a U.S. citizen or legal alien.
- ▶ Be enrolled in the seventh or eighth grade at an Indiana school accredited (or seeking accreditation) through Performance-Based Accreditation.

The student must also meet at least one of the following income requirements:

- ▶ Student has foster child status (ward of the court).
- ▶ The family's income is within the following guidelines:



Household Size	Maximum Annual Household Income Guidelines
2	\$21,479
3	\$27,066
4	\$32,653
5	\$38,240
6	\$43,827
For each additional, add:	\$5,587

Once a student becomes a Scholar, an increase in the family income will not affect the student's enrollment.

Commitment to the Scholars PLEDGE

- ▶ The Twenty-first Century Scholars program's most important investment is the Scholar. In the seventh or eighth grade, Scholars sign a Pledge of good citizenship and responsible behavior, which requires a commitment to their academic work. By signing the Scholars Pledge, Scholars promise to invest in themselves and take responsibility for their educations, actions and futures.

The Pledge requires the Scholar to:

- ▶ Remain alcohol, drug and crime free,
- ▶ Graduate from an Indiana high school with a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, and
- ▶ Apply on time for state and federal college financial aid by submitting his/her completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form by March 1.

Students who affirm the Scholars Pledge within two years of graduating from high school receive full-tuition awards to Indiana's public colleges or universities, or comparable awards to private in-state institutions for up to eight semesters. Scholars may defer their Scholarships for two years to pursue the military or to fulfill other obligations. Students who do not affirm the Pledge within the set timeframe are not eligible to receive a Twenty-first Century Scholarship.

The Scholars Pledge is more than a symbol of students' commitment to the program. It also:

- ▶ Articulates the objectives of the program and makes the goals measurable and attainable.
- ▶ Provides students with a peer group of other Scholars that supports their efforts to avoid substance abuse and attain academic achievement.
- ▶ Encourages students who lack community and family support to avoid substance abuse.
- ▶ Reinforces Indiana Prevention Resource Center and the Indiana Youth Institute data that show the correlation between substance abstinence and enhanced academic achievement.



THE SCHOLARS PLEDGE:

The Twenty-first Century Scholars Commitment for College:

I agree to graduate from an Indiana high school with a high school diploma.

I will achieve a cumulative high school GPA of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

I will not use illegal drugs or alcohol, or commit any crime.

I will apply for admission to an Indiana college, university, or technical or trade school as a high school senior.

I will apply on time for state and federal student financial aid.

The Scholars Program: Making PROGRESS, Making a DIFFERENCE

Year	Students Enrolled in the Scholars Program	Scholars Who Affirmed & Upheld Pledge	% of Scholars Who Affirmed	Number of Scholarships Awarded	Total Scholarship Dollars Awarded to Scholars
1990-91	5,718				
1991-92	6,318				
1992-93	4,965				
1993-94	4,208				
1994-95	4,620	2,565	44.9%	1,435	\$1,900,000
1995-96	5,647	2,841	45.0%	2,801	\$3,600,000
1996-97	7,200	2,612	52.6%	3,645	\$4,800,000
1997-98	7,940	2,643	62.8%	4,644	\$6,300,000
1998-99	8,444	2,983	64.6%	5,247	\$6,900,000
1999-00	9,853	3,334	59.0%	5,554	\$7,500,000
2000-01	11,035	3,888	54.0%	—	—

Students have a deferment option and may enroll in college within two years of high school graduation

The BENEFITS to Scholars



Scholars from the Indiana University-Kokomo Scholars Support Program enjoy a social event planned by local Scholars coordinators.

▶ Community support is essential to ensure Twenty-first Century Scholars – many of whom are at-risk youth – stay on track with their Pledges of good citizenship and commit to their goals of higher education. In addition to offering tuition assistance, the Scholars program involves students, their families and their communities in a network of support. The goal: to foster an academically encouraging environment for students while empowering parents to serve as the educational leaders in their children's lives.

From the time of enrollment, Scholars and their parents are offered:

- ▶ Sixteen Regional Support Programs throughout the state with activities including tutoring, mentoring, summer camps, cultural and arts outings, sports and recreational activities, college visits, career preparation, job shadowing, internships, study skills, literacy programs, community service projects and parent activities.
- ▶ Special Scholars publications, which include career and educational information specific to the Scholar's year in school.
- ▶ A toll-free hotline – 1-800-992-2076 – supported by the Indiana Career and Postsecondary Advancement Center (ICPAC) to answer questions related to the Scholars program, higher educational training, careers, colleges and financial aid.
- ▶ The Scholars program Web site – www.scholars.indiana.edu – featuring information for guidance counselors and Regional Support Program personnel, all Scholars program publications, and the Scholars application in English and Spanish.
- ▶ Regional newsletters, highlighting local Scholars activities, events and accomplishments.
- ▶ Mentoring support programs including tutoring, advising, outreach, and academic and social services available at participating Indiana colleges and universities.

How to ASSESS the Twenty-first Century Scholarship

▶ The Twenty-first Century Scholarship is a supplemental grant. This means it is not a loan and does not have to be paid back to the state of Indiana. Up to certain limits, it pays the difference between the student's tuition and fees and the Indiana Higher Education Grant (IHEG), which is the state's primary need-based grant available to all eligible students. State grants can be applied only to tuition and fee charges and not other costs of college such as room and board or textbooks.

Regional SUPPORT Program Site Map

1 Eastern Lake – Porter Scholars Support Program

Ivy Tech State College
1440 E. 35th Ave.
Gary, IN 46049
(219) 981-4434 (phone)
(800) 843-4882 (toll-free)
(219) 981-4443 (fax)

2 Western Lake – Newton County Scholars Support Program

ALSE Clemente Center
3616 Elm St.
East Chicago, IN 46312
(219) 391-8486 (phone)
(800) 478-8026 (toll-free)
(219) 391-8394 (fax)

3 Just for Scholars Program

Knox High School
#1 Redskin Trail
Knox, IN 46534
(574) 772-1676 (phone)
(888) 772-1676 (toll-free)
(574) 772-1685 (fax)

4 West Central Indiana Scholars Support Program

Lafayette School Corporation
3101 S. Creasy Ln.
P.O. Box 6299
Lafayette, IN 47903-6299
(765) 772-9250 (phone)
(888) 301-9251 (toll-free)
(765) 772-9107 (fax)

5 Wabash Valley Scholars Support Program

Indiana State University
University Hall, Suite 119
Terre Haute, IN 47809
(812) 237-3627 (phone)
(888) 288-1606 (toll-free)
(812) 237-9662 (fax)

6 Vincennes University Support Program

Vincennes University
1002 N. First St.
Vincennes, IN 47591-5201
(812) 888-5328 (phone)
(888) 772-4652 (toll-free)
(812) 888-5958 (fax)

7 Southwestern Indiana Scholars Support Program

University of Evansville
312 S. Frederick
Evansville, IN 47714
(812) 424-9711 (phone)
(866) 204-0025 (toll-free)
(812) 424-7476 (fax)

8 South Central Scholars Support Program

Monroe County Community School Corporation
315 North Dr.
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 330-7700 x471 (phone)
(877) 679-0990 (toll-free)
(812) 330-7813 (fax)

9 Southern Indiana Scholars Support Program

Wilson Education Center
11440 Highway 62
Charlestown, IN 47111-9400
(812) 256-8008/256-8009 (phone)
(800) 239-0698 (toll-free)
(812) 256-8016/256-8012 (fax)

10 Southeastern Indiana Scholars Support Program

Jennings County School Corporation
800 W. Walnut St.
Room 215A
North Vernon, IN 47265
(812) 346-5683 (phone)
(888) 346-5683 (toll-free)
(812) 346-5489 (fax)

11 Central Indiana Scholars Support Program

IUPUI University College
815 W. Michigan St.
Room LY 3004 A
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5164
(317) 274-1592 (phone)

12 East Central Indiana Scholars Support Program

Indiana University-East
2325 Chester Blvd.
Richmond, IN 47374
(765) 973-8536 (phone)
(800) 959-3278 x536 (toll-free)
(765) 973-8543 (fax)

13 White River Valley Region Scholars Support Program

Muncie Area Career Center
2500 N. Elgin St.
Muncie, IN 47303
(765) 751-0617 (phone)
(877) 717-2121 (toll-free)
(765) 747-5455 (fax)

14 Indiana University-Kokomo Scholars Support Program

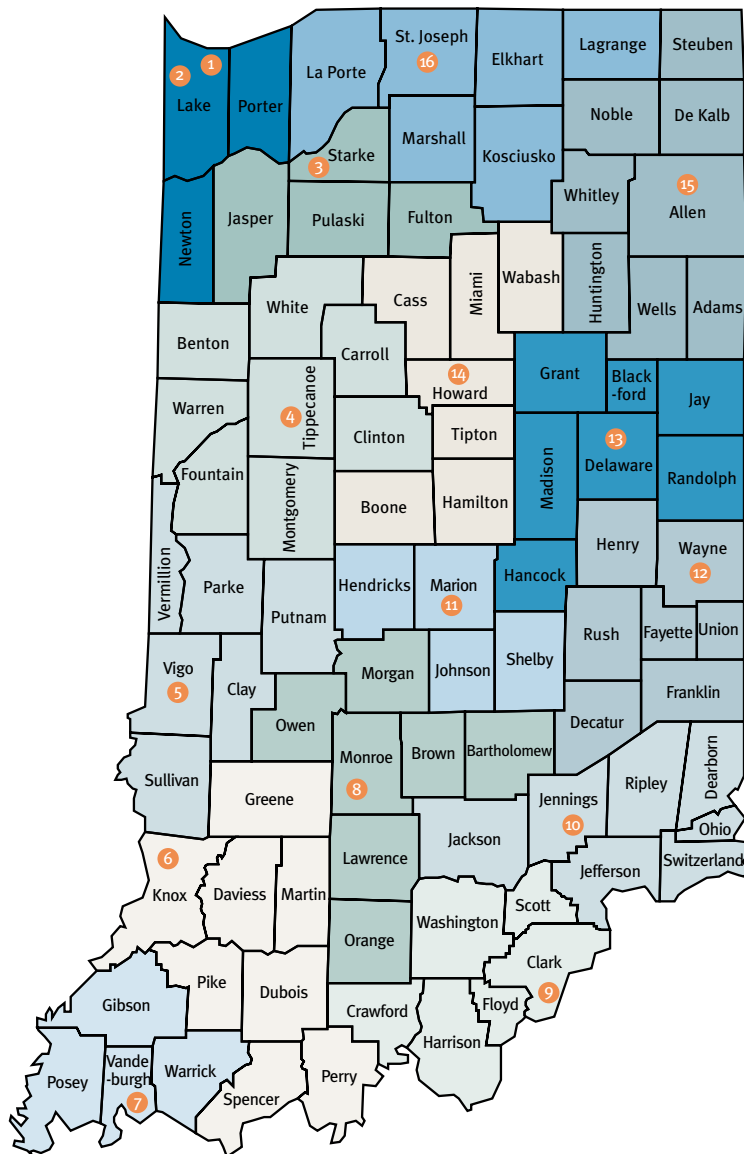
Early Outreach Building
2300 S. Washington St.
P.O. Box 9003
Kokomo, IN 46904-9003
(765) 455-9562/455-9533 (phone)
(800) 213-0165 (toll-free)
(765) 455-9563 (fax)

15 Northeastern Indiana Scholars Support Program

Wayne Township Trustee's Office
320 E. Superior
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
(219) 449-7010 x346 (phone)
(888) 665-7736 (toll-free)
(219) 422-8460 (fax)

16 North Central Indiana Scholars Support Program

Workforce Investment Board
Commerce Center
401 E. Colfax, Suite 307
South Bend, IN 46617
(574) 239-2380 x254 (phone)
(574) 239-2386 (fax)
(888) 603-5981 (toll-free)



Kelly Tingle:



Year enrolled: 1991-92

Hometown: North Liberty, Ind.

High school: John Glenn High School, 1996

College: Indiana University-Bloomington, 2000



“I am so thankful for the Twenty-first Century Scholars program. I knew that whatever happened, I was going to do something with my education. The program has given me self-worth and determination, and I’m going to go out and do great things because I’ve been given the opportunity.”



SUCCESS Personified

▶ For Kelly Tingle, being a leader came naturally. She had learned the ropes from her five older brothers and sisters and shared the responsibility of caring for her five younger siblings. So, when she first read the Twenty-first Century Scholars Pledge, she knew she was up to the challenge.

In Kelly's large family, money was always a little tight, and Kelly and her siblings received assistance from the Free and Reduced-Priced Lunch Program.

Kelly had a vague understanding of the Twenty-first Century Scholars program and its benefits after seeing her older sister sign the Pledge. But because the Scholars program was still new – only in its second year of operation – Kelly was slightly apprehensive.

"Nobody knew what to expect from the Scholars program because there was no track record," Kelly said. "We just knew we'd receive free college tuition if we affirmed the Pledge. At the time, I didn't even know how much a college education cost, but as I got older, I started to understand the value."

Growing up with other low- to middle-income families, everyone knew of their neighbors' financial situations. Kelly was never shy about her participation in the Scholars program.

"I actually had friends who were jealous of my participation in the Scholars program because they knew my college tuition was paid for," Kelly said.

During her high school years, Kelly had minimal involvement with the Scholars program. Driving to Scholars events was time-consuming and difficult because of her family's busy schedule. But once a month, she received the Indiana Career and Postsecondary Advancement Center (ICPAC) newsletter and would sit down on Saturday mornings to read and study it.

"The newsletters offered so much information about college and applying for financial aid," Kelly said. "My parents supported me academically, but they didn't have the experience of attending college. So I would read the newsletters and soak up the information."

Kelly was committed to her Scholars Pledge and took her promise seriously from the day she signed through her college graduation. In fact, during college she often

removed herself from situations where drinking was involved because she did not want to risk losing her Scholarship.

Kelly admits that what she learned most from the Scholars Pledge was to give back to the community. She joined Faculty and Staff for Student Excellence, and during her sophomore year in college, she mentored 12 incoming freshmen, many of whom faced the same financial challenges she did.

She completed an education policy internship in Washington, D.C., where she worked for the U.S. Department of Education's Partnership of Family Involvement. In 2000, Kelly graduated from Indiana University-Bloomington with a B.S. in public affairs, a concentration in public management and a minor in history. In 2001, she continued her passion for public service by working with nine other recent college graduates as a

Governor's Fellow for Gov. Frank O'Bannon. She was recently selected to participate in the Teach for America Program, and will teach at an elementary school in rural southern

Louisiana for two years. During that time, she will pursue a master's degree in education.

"When I graduated from college, I knew I wanted to give back to the community. I have a deep sense of duty, pride and willingness to serve others. That's why I chose the public sector," Kelly said. "I am so thankful for the Twenty-first Century Scholars program. I knew that whatever happened, I was going to do something with my education. The program has given me self-worth and determination, and I'm going to go out and do great things because I've been given the opportunity."



Kelly Tingle greets some of the more than 800 students participating in the Governor's Reading Day at Gov. and Mrs. O'Bannon's Residence.

Dee Vincent: Giving Parents a VOICE

▶ Dee Vincent has always been an involved parent. Today she helps other parents take an active role in their children's lives through her work with the Twenty-first Century Scholars Parents Project.

A Scholar parent, Dee saw the unbelievable difference the Scholars program made in her children's lives. She felt that if her children received Twenty-first Century Scholarships, she needed to give back to the program. She jumped in as a parent leader in 1994 and became immediately involved in enrolling students, planning college visits and coordinating Parents Project events.

"I could identify with other families in need of assistance and felt guilty that our family knew about this program and others didn't," Dee said. "And because students must enroll before they enter high school, reaching them in time was challenging."

Dee works hard to show parents the value of the Scholars program and

encourages families to see that it is more than a tuition scholarship, but a way of life. "Some parents I've worked with have limited education or reading abilities. They don't see the importance of an education because they were never shown. Others have had negative experiences with schools or simply don't realize they have the final say in their child's education and don't feel qualified to make those kinds of decisions," Dee said.

Through workshops that focus on Core 40, Academic Honors, ISTEP, study skills, time management, SAT and ACT tests, financial aid, math and science, Dee provides parents the skills necessary to support their children's educational pursuits.

"These activities are important because they give parents information they need to help their children succeed. They allow Scholar parents to network and find encouragement from other families facing the same obstacles and challenges," Dee said.

Dee describes her role as a regional parent coordinator as "extremely rewarding" and works toward the goal of enrolling every eligible student in the program.

"It's important for all of our sites to make sure that in every corner of the state, all seventh and eighth graders and their families know about this program. I know it's a lot of territory to cover, but we need to get the message out and get kids enrolled."

In her years with the Scholars program, Dee has helped other Scholar parents become more involved with their children's academic pursuits and has convinced many to get involved with the program.

"Sometimes kids aren't sure of themselves. If we as parents can't do anything else, we can at least give them encouragement. When they see their parents place importance on education, it means something. I don't see the Twenty-first Century Scholarship as a handout; I never have. The Scholars Pledge is attainable – it is not impossible. These students receive Scholarships because they work for them."



Title: Regional Parent Coordinator, Southeastern Region (covers seven counties: Jennings, Jackson, Jefferson, Dearborn, Ohio, Switzerland and Ripley)

"It's important for all of our sites to make sure that in every corner of the state, all seventh and eighth graders and their families know about this program. I know it's a lot of territory to cover, but we need to get the message out and get kids enrolled."

PARENTS Doing Their Part

▶ During the past 11 years, parents of Scholars have served as some of the program's best advocates. In 1991, the Parents Project, funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc., was piloted in seven sites around the state – East Chicago, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Gary, Indianapolis, Jeffersonville/New Albany and South Bend – to nurture parent involvement in the Twenty-first Century Scholars program. The Parents Project provides parents the skills and knowledge they need to make themselves educational leaders in their families.

The Parents Project requires each Regional Support Program site to develop an independent organization led by Scholar parents. Today, the Parents Project engages more than 1,500 families across the state. Led by parents, with guidance from regional site coordinators, the local parent groups coordinate college tours to familiarize parents with the higher education culture,

arrange family outings to acquaint their children with the arts and issues of diversity, organize speakers and workshops to improve parenting skills, and convene to support each other – particularly as their children transition from high school to college.



Statewide, the Scholars program connects parents to appropriate educational resources, such as the Annual Parents Conference, a statewide meeting of parents and parent leaders to discuss the concerns and challenges they face as Scholar families.

Educational Summit

In 1998, the Scholars program piloted an “educational summit” in cooperation with the Parents Project and the Indiana Center for Family, School and Community Partnerships. This project created core teams of parents and educators from their respective Regional Support Program sites who met with Indiana

educators to learn more about the ISTEP+ graduation examination, student test results and academic standards that support student success. The teams also explored engaging youth in activities to promote literacy and service, helping teens avoid alcohol, and promoting useful forums between families, schools and communities. Afterward, the teams were charged with implementing those tactics in their respective areas.

GEAR UP funds will enable parents to continue to expand their efforts by providing a parent leader for every county and increasing regional support program budgets for parent activities, transportation and childcare. With GEAR UP funding, the Parents Project network will continue to build local capacity one family, one community and one county at a time.

Alumni Parents

When the first class of Twenty-first Century Scholars graduated from college in 1999, the program recognized the importance of keeping not only program alumni, but also their parents, involved with the Scholars program. Alumni parents are encouraged to continue participation in the program to assist in sustaining the Parents Project goals. Alumni parents help direct the Parents Project at a grassroots level by developing smaller, close-knit groups of Scholar parents in individual counties by hosting home visits to share experiences and serve as peer mentors with new Scholar parents.

Kenneth Mayfield: Living the DREAM



Year enrolled: 1994-95
Hometown: Gary, Ind.
High school: Theodore Roosevelt High School, 1999
College: Indiana University-Bloomington



“One of the best aspects of the Twenty-first Century Scholarship is that recipients are not required to be ranked at the top of their class, but they are motivated to push themselves toward doing better in school.”



Walking around the campus of Indiana University, Kenneth Mayfield, a Twenty-first Century Scholar, runs into dozens of other Scholars from across the state that he has known since the eighth grade. Kenneth, a marketing major, appreciates the support system provided to Scholars, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college.

Growing up, Kenneth and his siblings depended solely on their mother's salary, and financial support for college was really needed. So when a Scholars program representative talked to Kenneth's eighth-grade class about enrolling, he

was immediately interested. As he approached the end of his high school career, Kenneth gained a better appreciation for his Twenty-first Century Scholarship.

“It would have been pretty hard for my family to afford college on our own. And since I wasn't one of the top-performing students in my class academically, I was worried that my options were limited,” he said. “One of the best aspects of the Twenty-first Century Scholarship is that recipients are not required to be ranked at the top of their class, but they are still motivated to push themselves toward doing better in school. The Scholars program really gives you a goal to achieve and only asks three simple things in return: stay off of drugs and alcohol, graduate from high school with a minimum 2.0 GPA, and apply for financial aid. Those are things many students want to do anyway.”

Kenneth is fully committed to his Scholars Pledge. “The Twenty-first Century Scholars program gave me a reason to leave drugs and alcohol alone. The program is helping me achieve a college education, and I don't want to miss this great opportunity.”

The Scholars program is just the first of many opportunities for Kenneth. After graduating with a degree in marketing, he plans to work in a marketing firm and eventually become an entrepreneur.

PARTNERSHIP for Progress



GEAR UP

Communities In Schools

Communities In Schools (CIS) is a federally funded program that pairs school corporations with local businesses and service agencies to develop a comprehensive roster of community services available for students and their parents.

The Office of Twenty-first Century Scholars, in partnership with CIS, has begun a five-year process to assess needs, leverage resources and link the 16 Regional Support Program sites to local organizations and institutions with compatible goals and objectives. Goals include working directly with schools and service providers, who in turn provide direct services to children and families, and helping community organizations become better equipped to serve students and families.

Indiana School Guidance Leadership Program

The Indiana School Guidance Leadership Program (ISGLP) is a two-year process that guides school teams of teachers, guidance counselors and school principals through the process of envisioning their ideal student population, with emphasis on the needs of children from at-risk environments. The ultimate goals of the program are improved behavior, grades, attendance and graduation rates.

GEAR UP funds will allow the Scholars program to expand this program over a five-year period. Twelve school teams – four elementary, middle and high schools from each of three school-to-work regions – will begin the program each year. At the end of five years, all regions will have 12 new schools involved in ongoing educational reform at the community level.

College Goal Sunday

Sponsored by the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association (ISFAA) and in collaboration with the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana, College Goal Sunday is a free annual event that assists high school seniors and their parents completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form – a component of the Scholars Pledge. Lilly Endowment, Inc.; the Lumina Foundation for Education; and USA Funds fund the initiative. For two years under the Scholars GEAR UP Program, WFYI Television and Radio has produced a one-hour financial aid broadcast that supplements College Goal Sunday.



AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps members have served as the Scholars program's grassroots community builders – garnering local investment and support. Since 1994, AmeriCorps

has worked directly with Scholars at schools and youth agencies. Full-time volunteers have provided more than 300,000 hours of community service to Scholars throughout Indiana, and part-time volunteers have provided more than 120,000 hours. AmeriCorps members ensure that Scholars receive individual assistance, such as tutoring, mentoring, ISTEP+ High School Graduation Qualifying Exam remediation and college visits. AmeriCorps members also teach Scholars the value of community service and engage Scholars in service learning to nurture civic responsibility and increase volunteerism among Scholars and their families. They also rally schools, teachers and other youth resources on behalf of Scholars' success.



Indiana Career and Postsecondary Advancement Center

Under the direction of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, the Indiana Career and Postsecondary Advancement Center (ICPAC) informs, encourages and supports the education and career development of all Hoosiers. ICPAC creates and manages a database with information on nearly every Indiana student in grades 8 through 12 and mails career and college planning information to their homes. ICPAC serves the Scholars community directly through its Scholars Enrollment, Data and Communications Center (EDC). The EDC is responsible for creating and maintaining a database of Scholars and applicants, as well as distributing informative publications to these students, their parents and schools.



Indiana Commission for Higher Education

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education is the agency responsible for planning and coordinating Indiana's state-supported system of higher education. It researches and analyzes trends and policies impacting Indiana education. The Indiana Commission for Higher Education/GEAR UP partnership's goal is to improve and increase the amount of available data concerning academic trends and progress of Indiana students and families to create a comprehensive study that drives the continuous program improvement plan.



Indiana Department of Education (K-12)

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) endorses the Scholars program among IDOE partners, such as superintendents, counselors and teachers. IDOE informs families about the Scholars program via the Free and Reduced-Priced Lunch Applications, which IDOE publishes and distributes. The IDOE application form includes a query that prompts participants to request information about the Scholars program.

Looking toward the FUTURE



Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon and Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Suellen Reed (center) honor graduating Twenty-first Century Scholars.

▶ The Twenty-first Century Scholars program isn't content with simply increasing the number of low-income Indiana students pursuing higher education. It isn't satisfied with a higher percentage of students enrolling in the Scholars program each year. And it doesn't slow down when more Indiana students tackle challenging high school course loads, including Core 40 and Honors Diploma curricula. While these achievements confirm the Scholars program's purpose, they do not curb its pursuit for more. The Scholars program works to ensure *every* income-eligible Indiana student receives the opportunity for a higher education.

The Scholars program has employed numerous tactics to reach Indiana students and their families early and often. The program made tremendous strides toward its goal, and during the next few years, it will continue to improve outreach by:

- ▶ Communicating earlier with eligible families,
- ▶ Outsourcing programs to community organizations, and
- ▶ Serving as a national model.

Dissolving the enrollment crunch

A strong, statewide public awareness campaign made 1999 to 2001 the most successful recruiting period in the program's history. Of the nearly 28,000 eligible Indiana eighth-grade students, nearly 21,000 enrolled in the Scholars program during that time.

Program outreach efforts continue to grow. Although the June 1 deadline remains firm, starting in 2001, the Scholars program eligibility is now open to both seventh-

and eighth-grade students, widening the window of opportunity for enrollment. Earlier enrollment allows the Scholars program to help students better prepare for high school through course selection and career mapping. With early intervention, the Scholars program can reach students before they select their high school courses and encourage them to pursue Academic Honors and Core 40 classwork – requirements for many colleges and universities. Earlier enrollment also means earlier student and parent involvement in important programs and activities.

Research indicates that grade school parents are more involved in their children's education and become less involved as their children reach middle and high school. Scholar parents have said they were not as active in their child's educational pursuits until the Scholar program came along. The Scholars program involves students and families early and keeps them involved throughout high school.

Partnering with community organizations

One way the Scholars program is extending its reach and accessibility is by outsourcing its services through community and youth-serving organizations statewide. For years, AmeriCorps volunteers served as the program's main advocate base; however, the contract with AmeriCorps will end prior to the 2002-03 school year. As a result, the Scholars program is forming a new volunteer base of community groups and organizations.

With these partnerships, the Scholars program can provide Scholars and other students one-stop access to resources that help meet basic needs or deal with personal crises. Scholars often turn to program coordinators when they have no electricity at home, need eyeglasses, require medical assistance, have been raped or abused, or have a parent who abuses drugs or alcohol. Under the new program model, the Scholars program will be equipped to direct Scholars and other students to partner organization counselors, independent doctors, dentists, departments of justice and others who can help.

Communities In Schools (CIS) will be a primary service provider. In fact, CIS conducts community assessment studies that provide the Scholars program with information on communities' specific challenges so that the Scholars program can partner with appropriate area organizations and agencies to meet those needs.

For this new model to work, the Scholars program also needs support from schools statewide. Schools can provide resources like office space or staff and give a school's entire student body access to a full spectrum of services. Training for service brokers and volunteers includes a history of the Scholars program, relevant legislation issues and a walk-through of the Scholars program application process. Individuals and organizations interested in partnering with the Scholars program may call the ICPAC hotline toll-free at (800) 992-2076.

Serving as a national model

Although other states have programs that offer services like those provided by the Scholars program, Indiana's Scholars program is truly unique, offering a breadth of services unlike any program of its kind.

Recently, several organizations including Lumina Foundation for Education, the National Governor's Association, The American Council on Education and the Indiana Education Policy Center, have studied the Scholars program to test the feasibility of replicating components, or the entire program model, in other states. These organizations have studied the Scholars program enrollment and graduation rates, its partnership with ICPAC, and the program's overall effectiveness.

Among all facets studied, the Scholars Parents Project, which involves parents as partners not just as participants or volunteers, is the component of greatest interest. Several states plan to incorporate parent programs with the help of GEAR UP funding.

Looking toward the future

While the Scholars program has seen great successes since its beginning in 1990, it continues to explore new opportunities to better serve students and their families in their quest for higher education. Through increased awareness, parental involvement and community partnerships, the Scholars program and Indiana will continue to open the door to education for many Hoosier families.



Erin Diener addresses her peers at a ceremony during Scholar Day at the Statehouse.

The Twenty-first Century Scholars program has successfully promoted academic achievement. A survey of 501 Scholars in grades 8-12 illustrates that the Scholars program is reaching its goals:

- ▶ 98% reported helpfulness from Scholars program staff and found the program's activities helpful and meaningful.
- ▶ 97% responded that the Scholars program helped them continue their education.
- ▶ 95% stated that the Scholars program was very valuable to them.
- ▶ 89% reported that the Scholars program reduced the chances that they would drop out of school.
- ▶ 86% indicated that the Scholars program helped prepare them for the challenges of college life.
- ▶ 82% indicated that the program helped them refrain from substance abuse.
- ▶ 74% reported that the Scholars program helped to get their parents involved in their education.
- ▶ 72% indicated that they regularly participated in Scholars program early intervention activities.



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